

Making Decisions in a Parliamentary Democracy

In this assignment the following topics will be explored according to groupings:

Group 1:

- Who has the power to make laws in Canada?
- What are the checks and balances used in a democratic system so that no-one part of government or society can make laws without being monitored?

Group 2:

- How does the Constitution of Canada define and limit the government's power?
- How does the Charter of Rights and Freedoms limit the power of the government?
- Before laws can be passed what criteria must be met and where is this criterion found?

Group 3:

- What is the role of the Opposition in Parliament?
- What powers does the Opposition have in Parliament?
- What mechanisms does the Opposition use to influence the government?

Group 4:

- What mechanisms are in place so that the people of the country know what the government is being accountable?
- What role do the media play in public debate?

Group 5:

- When legislation is being developed how does debate play a role in the development of laws?
- Who makes up the legislative committees to examine proposed legislation?
- What is the process for making legislation?

Group 6:

- How can you as a citizen of Canada become involved in politics?
- As a Member of Parliament what some expectations your party has of you?

Tasks:

1. In your assigned groups, explore each topic and answer the accompanying questions.
2. You are then responsible to create a short PowerPoint presentation and present it to the class.

Evaluation:

- You will be marked according to the following:
 - Presentation Rubric
 - Group Work
 - Discussion